

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 1-25 are rejected. Review and reconsideration of the Office Action of March 29, 2004, is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Objections to the Drawings

The figures are objected to as being missing from the file.

Applicant respectfully asserts that Figs. 1-3 were included with the instant English language patent application filed on July 25, 2000. Specifically, two pages of drawings were filed, containing Figs. 1-3. A return postcard was included with the application papers, which lists two pages of formal drawings as being among the papers submitted. The postcard was returned by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the Applicant with a serial number and filing date and no other annotations. Receipt the drawings was thereby acknowledged by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

A further copy of the figures as filed (Figs. 1-3) is appended, together with a copy of the return postcard showing receipt of the original figures by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 25, 2000. Entry of the drawings and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Collier (U.S. Patent No. 5,463,838).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Collier teaches a method for identifying and recording the pathways of carriers installed within a building or other

structure (col. 3, lines 19-21) in order to facilitate subsequent troubleshooting and repair (col. 4, lines 41-52). To this end, carriers are color-coded or bar-coded and data relating to their position is stored. Collier is directed essentially exclusively to labeling and installation of a pre-designed layout.

In contrast, the present invention, as exemplified by claims 1 and 14 (from which the balance of the claims depend, either directly or indirectly), is directed to a process for laying out a cable wiring structure for an electrical system in a mechanical structure, in which the process includes checking the layout and assignments for possible mechanical and/or electrical conflicts. Thus, the present invention includes checking for mechanical and electrical conflicts within the representation of the transmission line layout (step (d)).

Collier fails to teach or suggest this element and therefore cannot anticipate any of claims 1-25.

Col. 14, lines 6-15, of Collier is cited as allegedly anticipating claim 1, part (d). However, a close reading of the cited section shows that this section relates to methods of locating and troubleshooting an actual layout only after installation. Collier does not teach methods for conflict checking prior to installation, nor does Collier suggest any benefit in doing so. Therefore, step (d) of claim 1 (and step (d) of claim 14) is not taught or suggested by Collier, and Collier cannot anticipate any of claims 1-25.

Second, with respect to claim 10, the Examiner suggests that the disclosure at col. 4, line 65, inherently teaches that "the conflict check includes the electro-magnetic compatibility

of transmission lines bundled together in one segment of a cable bundle." Applicant respectfully disagrees on the grounds that the "characteristics" of the sheathed cables or other conductors or carriers, as disclosed at the cited section of Collier, relate only to the physical location and physical contents of the conductors to the extent that such properties may be included, for example, in a bar-code. Collier neither teaches the conflict-checking limitation of claim 10 (as is admitted by the Examiner), nor inherently teaches it, and therefore Collier cannot anticipate claim 10.

Third, in order to anticipate a claim, a reference must enable each element for which it is cited. Collier briefly mentions CAD/CAM techniques for laying out intended carrier paths (col. 1, line 48). Applicant respectfully submits that this *de minimus* disclosure would have been insufficient for one of ordinary skill at the time of filing to carry out the specific steps corresponding to (b)-(d) of claim 1 and 14, which set forth in specific detail the data sets and processes comprising the present invention. For example, one of ordinary skill would not have gleaned from Collier the order of the claimed process, or the specific relationships between the transmission line data set, connector elements, and transmission line paths, or the conflict checking process of part (d).

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

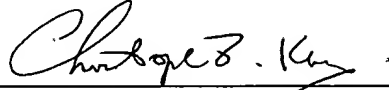
As there are no further objections or rejections, early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further suggestions, he is invited

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/624,731
AMENDMENT A

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 3926.009

to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 29, 2004